

Lookouts




Overview





The lookouts module will focus on where and how to position a lookout, break down specific tasks of a lookout and then discuss communication as it relates to serving as a fire lookout.



Facilitator Quick Checklist


The following are the most important tasks that should be considered before implementing this module:

- ✓ Preview the Lookouts Module on the DVD
- ✓ Preview Lime Creek Tactical Decision Game

Time	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
1 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce module overview listed above.	
8 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play DVD Module 3: <u>Lookouts</u>	DVD 3
1 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how TDGs work <p>TDGs are intended to put firefighters under time constraints as to simulate real world decision making. For more information on how to administer one refer to: http://www.fireleadership.gov/toolbox/TDG_Library/tdgsreferences.htm</p>	

Time	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
3 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Have the students break into groups of 4 or 5 and refer to the Student Workbook. Ask groups to read the following background information before they view the video portion of the Tactical Decision Game. <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;">  The Lime fire started on August 17th on the White River National Forest in Colorado. The effects of the Mountain Bark Beetle have been devastating in this region, and the fire started in an area whose primary fuel type is bug killed lodge pole pine. The weather over the past several days has generally been temperatures in the 70s and 80s with occasional 90 degree readings and humidity dropping into the middle teens. The current temperature is 75 with an RH of 25%. The forecast calls for a high temperature of 85 and RHs dropping into the low teens. Also, there are widely scattered thunderstorms forecasted for this afternoon. Fuels over the fire area generally consist of grass/sage with scattered Junipers, ponderosa pine and clumps of bitterbrush and curly-leaf mahogany. </div>	SW 1
2 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Click on ‘Lime Creek Tactical Decision Game” on the DVD for Assignment #1. 	DVD 3
10 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Instruct students to read the following situation, and answer the questions that follow. Give them 10 minutes to discuss solutions among groups. 	SW 2

Time	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
	<p style="text-align: center;">(from Student Workbook)</p> <p>You are the incident commander and the squad leader of a five person module who had been ordered to initial attack the fire-which appears to be about 20 acres in size at this time. Your crew has arrived on scene and is beginning to assess the situation. It is 0900 and the crew is getting prepared to receive a briefing. You will need to assign a lookout for the fire.</p> <p>1. What considerations should be made when designating a crewmember to serve as the lookout? (considering experience level, specialized skills, etc.) <i>Suggested Talking Points:</i> <i>-Does the person have a good background in fire behavior?</i> <i>-What are their communications skills like?</i> <i>-Can this person take initiative and make important decisions?</i></p> <p>2. What considerations should be made when choosing a location for the lookout? (considering fuels, weather, topography, etc.) <i>Suggested Talking Points:</i> <i>-Can the lookout see the entire fire?</i> <i>-If fire activity should increase, are they positioned in a place where they would be safe?</i> <i>-How long will it take for them to get there? To get out?</i> <i>- What about a roving lookout? Is that okay?</i></p>	SW 2
2 min	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on “Continue” to play the rest of TDG and for Assignment #2 	DVD 3
10 min	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct students to read the following paragraph, and answer the questions that follow. Give them 10 minutes to discuss solutions among groups. 	SW 3

Time	Facilitator Tasks	Refer To
 <p>Estimate Total Time: 40 min</p>	<p>(from Student Workbook)</p> <p>You are now the lookout. It is 1500 and fire activity is starting to pick up. The IC has ordered a 20 person crew and a helicopter to start performing bucket drops on the fire. The temperature is 86 degrees and the RH is 13. You notice some cloud build up to the southeast.</p> <p>1. As the lookout, do you still have a good view of all of the resources you are responsible for? If not, what actions need to be taken?</p> <p><i>Suggested Talking Points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consider suggesting appointing another lookout if you can no longer see all of your resources -Communicate to the crew boss that you can no longer see all of your resources so they can assess the situation <p>2. You are starting to observe fire behavior that is concerning and you need to get on the radio to let the IC and Crew Boss know. There is too much radio traffic and you can't break through. What are your options?</p> <p><i>Suggested Talking Points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Interrupt radio traffic and announce important fire information <p>3. Planning ahead for a worst case scenario situation, what types of considerations should you be planning for?</p> <p><i>Suggested Talking Points:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From your perspective, you can help identify alternative escape routes and safety zones for the crew - Setting up a regular check-in schedule to communicate situation with IC or crew boss -Establish and identify trigger points relating to fire behavior or weather -Ensure communication lines are well established (dispatch, IC, crew boss, air resources, other resources) 	<p>SW 3</p>